

CATEGORY E

EPILEPSY AND RELATED CONDITIONS

1. Epilepsy includes any recurrent loss of consciousness or conscious control arising from intermittent change in brain function. Because of the similarity of consequences, other disorders affecting consciousness or control such as syncope, hypoglycemia, etc. which interfere with function may be included in this section, to be considered in a similar fashion. For sleep disorders and associated conditions, see category K.
2. Since all forms of epilepsy (tonic-clonic or grand mal, partial complex or psychomotor, partial, with or without spread, and absence or petit mal) may interfere with safe driving, they will affect the level of driving recommended and will require initial and follow-up reports.
3. An operator's license, with or without limitations, may be issued after a suitable interval in the following circumstances confirmed by a medical report:
 - ! **A single seizure or cluster of seizures (profile 7 until evaluation completed).**
 - ! **Seizures occurring only in sleep over a period of three or more years.**
 - ! **Seizures so limited as not to interfere with control, if stable for a period of one year.**
 - ! **Seizures recurring when medication has been reduced on a health care professional's advice to change or discontinue medication and a corrective change has been made as recommended by the health care professional.**
 - ! **A seizure provoked by a clearly identified cause which is not likely to recur.**
4. To qualify for a profile based upon freedom from seizures, a person should be free from side effects of medications which affect driving. Anyone taking medication is responsible to refrain from driving if it affects their alertness and coordination, until the health care professional approves resumption of driving and believes the patient can drive safely. Side effects such as skin or gum changes which do not affect driving may be disregarded. In individual cases where anticonvulsant medication effects cause a slowing of reaction time, consideration should be given to limitations on speed as suggested in Neurologic Category D.
5. Persons experiencing seizures may have associated problems which may affect driving safety and these should be reported under the appropriate profiles.
6. Persons with past seizures may qualify for a higher risk responsibility level by making sure they faithfully take their prescribed medication and use other means of control. In time, they may qualify for an unrestricted license. Under these guidelines and standards it is possible for a person to resume driving a private vehicle after a seizure free interval of only three months. Each case should be considered carefully to balance possible risk against the person's need to get to and from work, etc.
7. Further detailed information regarding the handling of epilepsy is to be found on the following page.
8. **COMMERCIAL INTRASTATE DRIVERS:** A commercial intrastate license may be granted under profiles 2, 3 and 4 depending upon the degree of seizure control.